American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection

Part 1: Missionaries

The Irene Forsythe Hanson Papers, 1921-1980

Series I

Correspondence
(Incoming and outgoing intermixed)

Folder Description:

Correspondence,
April 2, 1928–April 7, 1928, undated

Box Number:	***Folder Number:***
1	15

159 Shantung Road
but maybe you'd better use old number still -

Tues. Eve -
April 3, 1928

My dearest Loved Ones;

Am just back from a nice spin in a ricksha along the bay - The ricksha man was so fast it was a spin all right. Oh! the harbor is just like fairy land alive with lights + there is a beautiful full moon. It was lovely - the cause of my nite wandering was after class p.m. I had a guest till six so I couldn't + then I forgot to take some character cards to Mr. Leroy which were to be examined on tomorrow. I simply had to go as they were his cards I'd borrowed! Well, I had a nice time anyway. The whole Japanese navy has arrived - not really - but there are 18 big battleships + 12 submarines. As Mr. Chow my teacher said, Tsingtao is full of Japanese soldiers - there isn't one place not full of them! Living as I do now on the main street I see more of them than before too.

My blessed ones - you've been so neglected as usual a week I write to others my family suffers - if I write you other letters go - so it is borrow from Peter to pay Paul - well this week you were Peter + there were many Pauls, Mercy days! I got a few of my Christmas thank you's off! Imagine April + still some unwritten, but love will have to cover long silences as well as many sins, I guess

Lets see I wrote you last after just moving in here - the day after — mercy, I'll never get caught up I fear. My diary is up so I'll be able to rely on it a bit. but tonite I can't do it its after eight now + I must be in bed at nine - but I'll begin, — Having such nice food + I love it here. Mrs Hu is so nice. Sun. after coming I went with kiddies to S.S. + amah went too. She isn't a Christian - neither is the cook I find so pray for them, after church went up with Anleta - + discovered I'd lost my watch - went right back + found it lying on the floor near the door! I was a marvel someone hadn't found it! Our new spring term and last of Language School has begun - with much the same classes but students much fewer!! Had one such nice evening playing + singing with Mrs. Hu on Wed. Thurs a.m. she awakened very sick, groaning terribly + been sick all night - They called Dr, + I was so surprised to see such a nice looking Chinese lady come in. She is a graduate of one of our mission medical schools in Kwangtung, She is lovely! have met her since - She has a few rooms with her office and a nurse where she cares for patients. The nurse too is interesting - she is of a very wealthy family - father has eight concubines + she couldn't stand it. She is a Christian so she left to take nurse's training + is now working with Dr. Chang. Well they took Mrs. Hu to hospital + over night I acquired an apartment, a cook, an amah + three Chinese Children! Say missionary life is slow + monotonous eh! It was literally acquiring for a few days in many ways tho for most part it all ran itself for the amah is fine + ~~the~~ the cook is good too.

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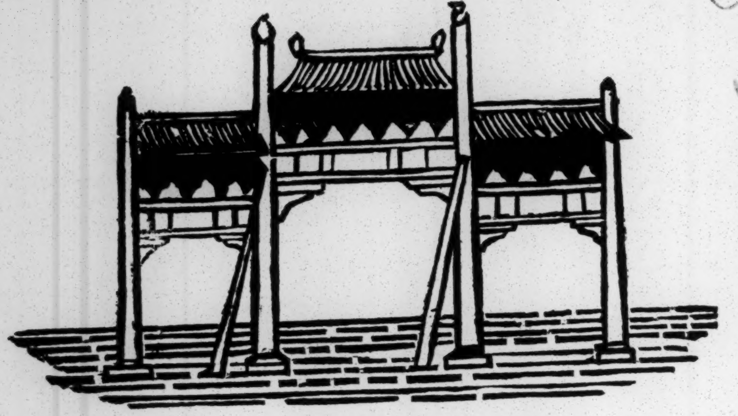
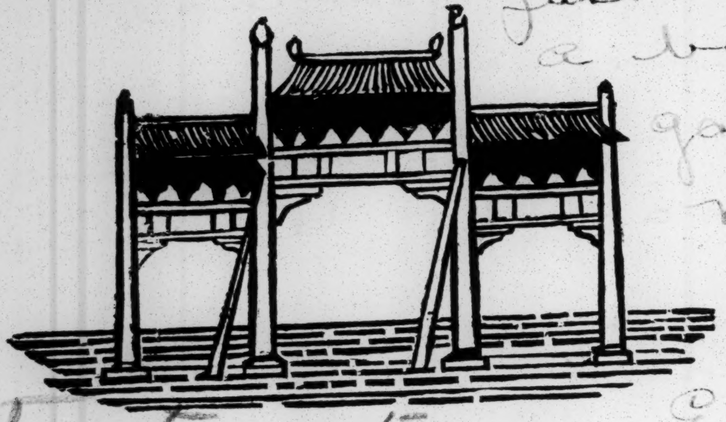
However my being here rather helped keep all together. It was the first time they'd been alone + they were like lost little kittens - strangers in their own home. I brought the guitar + we sang + then helped them say their prayers + so we got along nicely. Their mother said they were to obey me - so I had various disputes to settle - even once was visited while I was in bath room to answer something. I'm walked the oldest boy! ~~announced~~ - on P.M. Sat, the second one who is stubborn [according to another cook] after a whipping from father wouldn't apologize] - hit the small + I started on him to persuade him to apologize + It was just answer to prayer - for he did + smoothed over an otherwise bad spot in the day! Friday evening went to Mrs. Evans for supper. Seemed so funny to be going back + not being there. Roy + he had ~~one of~~ the two eligible bachelors of Shantung, Mr. Harding (Tchowfu) there for supper - we had a nice time - he even was on his knees to me - so there!!! (have to spoil it) helping me fix the grate fire - + Mr. Thompson of Tchowfu (he + wife + Mr. + Mrs. Chandler of here were there) got very gay + kidded him but this is just to give all of you a thrill - but my heart is still me own!! even tho we did pop corn etc!!
Got another character exam off - on 600-800 last for this year. still have 200 of last summer's to get off tho.
Sat. wrote to Woodburn Ladies Aid - mentioning names I'd had cards from, to S.S. to

4. thanks for holly wreath, to Mrs. Moshberger + Light bearers, thanks for candy + cards; to Mrs. Dodge + her class thanks for candy + cards - to Gervais Ladies Aid + 3 personal letters, to Aurora in answer to theirs!! worked on Chinese grammar assignment, helped Stella buy a Chinese coat - so the day went -
Sun! Mrs. Hu came back, I reminded myself of that King in England who reigned for a few days! Went to my first communion service in Chinese a week ago. Seems awful to have been here so long + not been before but I happened to miss it before here + in Peking we didn't go to Chinese church. It was perfectly lovely. A kind of white grape juice was used - served in tiny white cups shaped liked the ordinary rice bowl - As each one received the cup he stood + drank + returned cup to the tray. I think this comes from Chinese custom in receiving tea. they stand + receive it with both hands - (+ it must be offered with both hands too) The bread was just white raised bread cut up. There were two ladies who served the women - I don't know their official position - one is a very prominent lady - graduate of Wellesley - It was surely a blessed service. After church Mr. Davies said he'd rec'd official notice of my assignment. We talked of places to live - It isn't very nice here for a single girl in that respect - it seems there families have had some unpleasantness with others living with them tho each one has come + invited me very cordially if I choose to come + live with them. Well, at present I'm thoroughly happy here + will stay till August as the present plan is - but it will depend on several things!



so soft + warm – brown color with a bright red bead on them I just clog around at a great pace!! but I'm warm. Also got material for high cotton padded shoes, + wool to make an extra pair legging-hose! Also invested in a top fur lined garment to put on when going out to South village + to church etc. – when its windy + cold but too warm for winter. Its made big so can put on over all my other layers – even my under fur garment. Used my old fox neckpiece + have a collar on it, I hope I'm thru buying such but these things are necessary for outfit + will last years! You'll wonder maybe why my heavy coat isn't enuf! I can't wear foreign clothes, several reasons – comfort, suitableness, warmth etc – + the sleeves of that coat couldn't do for our sleeves at all! Also invested 1.60 in a little stove for Chinese food – used it to-night + its wonderful. It is on angel cake pan principle – use charcoal in the hole + in pan put meat – vegetables in water + all is piping hot + lovely!! One person's food is difficult to keep hot with just one burner to

6/. cook on so this solves it quite nicely
They surely are clever & convenient. There
I guess that completes my list of outfit.
You can imagine how rushed we were got
in Friday noon. I spent ½ hr. hunting keys to
Kitchen door + first decided I surely must be
losing my mind because I was so sure
I'd put them a certain place - When I found
out Mrs. Chandler had come to get them to
get into the attic!! Went with her for
dinner + then it rained + all my rain
things in country!! But we went just the
same + got a few errands off. Furbaught
ute, Who is it in the Bible who is said to
be shorn of his glory? Well, I know how he
feels!! Mrs. Tewksbury came Sat. A.M. + took
all their furniture - my fancy table, chairs,
tea tables (+ I never had a tea to use
them!!) pictures!! + surely left me
bare + barren!! This with a tailor, +
dozen other things all in one breath!
Went to dentist, to doctor, shopped + in
all it was a wild day! Went to Erva's for
supper it was the only nice, peaceful, orderly
spot in the rushing days. The rooms
were so dusty after month's absence + we
too busy to clean much - so I said
I was glad to get away to escape the dust



Just before leaving country I had
a beginning of a cold which
got no better fast so my
nurse-doctor - Sophia Reich-
who is at Siwo a few
li from here but was at
Erwas gave me a Compound pills + Sun.
treatment ~~I sweated it~~ rested + wrote the last
pile of Christmas cards + saw Mr. + Mrs. Davies
+ got the last things piled together for a
five o'clock arising Mon. A.M. Breakfast on
a bit of left over rice - all the rest packed
or in the country + off we flew to a seven
o'clock bus - which started lamely out
+ after a few miles had to return for new
water hose in engines. Finally with continual
delays to coax it along we arrived at
12 + I was glad to be home again! My little
visit here in country with so many friends
+ the busy busy days seem more like
home than the wild rushing of Tsingtao -
These are all valuable experiences + I get
so amused at lots of them. On the way while
we waited at one place for them to coax the
engine a bit we went in to the Lutheran
gospel hall purposely to see a Mr. Yang -
because when we were in Huang Shih Lo a
Miss Kao asked us to see him as there

8] has been a proposal for marriage between them + she wanted us to see him + let her know. It was rather exciting ~~this~~ to be in on the romance. We decided he will do!!

I told you Elder Hsieh bought a stove + put in my room. He's really getting ready for his nephew to bring a bride home in a few months so it was for them primarily but I get the benefit of it. When I got back they'd sealed the roof of the two bed rooms + papered - flowered paper ceiling + white walls - so it is so clean + attractive.

I hadn't returned but a few minutes when they brought me a baby with most awful burns I've ever seen - all purple + hand full of puss - 5 days old burn - it just made me sick almost. Well, we washed + vasilined it - but 2nd day my teacher decided the skin that was loose must come off - I didn't think I was chicken hearted but he did that - Today, its better - it is such a satisfaction - The family aren't Christians but told Mrs. Hsieh they thought it so wonderful - we'd do this for them. Our only hope is to win them to Christ + use this as a means!! How I wish they too might know His joy!!!

[9].

We took a blind boy into the hospital for examination to Tsingtao but there is no hope. He is extremely clever - he hears something just a few times & knows it. We want to think of some way to send him to Blind school either in Peking or Shanghai. I've written & when I know how much ~~it would take think I'll see whether~~ Bethel ~~young people might like to help~~ Mrs. V. once ~~told me if I knew of any such thing they might do to help him~~. I don't know yet.

It's about my bed time. These days are so full; I have to go to bed early - my cold hangs on a bit so I try to rest more by going to bed early - no mid day nap these days.

My evening class of boys has had to disband for a time - nights are a bit too uncertain. A boy a few li away was taken by bandits so it wasn't safe to have them. I'm hoping after Christmas we can meet again.

But I think were two conversions from it - one boy who had heard before in school but he came for a Testament & signed pledge to believe & wish to be baptized. Tonight was such a sweet experience. Sometime ago at breakfast a man came saying his boy was sick & had sent him to get the "Kuniang" "send for the unmarried girl" - I gave him salts & he got better. The

10] mother had run off with another man + this living there with father + grandfather; Such a lovely-hearted little fellow - with biggest brown eyes. He came last nite after school - said had a headache etc! So I fixed him up again; Lovity, he said he wanted to believe + he father did too but grandfather objected. The private school he goes too has classes seven days a week. so he hasn't much chance. He wanted a little Testament + we had prayer - he prayed, also this other little boy + the cook, He surely is sincere + I believe he's begining to understand! Such contacts I believe are lasting + I feel so happy to be able to be here to, have a share in this glad service of telling of our dear Saviour.

My peanuts boiling away on the little stove sound right jolly + companionable! The nurse I spoke of came up once + saw a lot of my chronic patients + eye cases + brought such a fine supply of medicines + told me so much of how to care for them + all - Also left some that have helped me too! She's 20 li away - its ~~her letter I'm enclosing you'll enjoy it~~ - she sends things to me when I lack as she goes in to Tsingtao to get their dispensary things. A famine refugee with

Thurs. Eve.
April 5. 1928

My Blessed Ones!

I've just got to write a bit - I ought soon to be in bed! but I must tell you about today while it is all so fresh in mind!! Got up at 5:30 copied my [illegible] to go over with the teacher - p.m. dinner went to Mrs Eames - & then with Mrs. Hu to call on this Buddhist friend. They live in a nice house in a fine part of town - There were the old mother - and she is the oldest of family husband dead - she is truly ruler of all she surveys - We went into a beautifully furnished guest room - there were Chinese scrolls on the walls - pictures & two large cases filled with silver things. The oldest living son, really adopted son whose mother died two weeks ago we saw first, He was wearing very ordinary cotton clothes of black & white shoes as mourning. Then came his wife [illegible] all live together & the daughter in law has to take responsibility for running house etc. She was very nice - (bobbed hair -) then twins now 20 some came in - very similar in appearance. They wore foreign clothes - having been in school in Shanghai - studied French, etc. but very attractive in appearance & manners.

4. Then a yi[illegible] in fine silk chinese clothes came. The men went to see the grove and then we women visited. I forgot to say the "lao t'ai tai" — (the old mother very respectful title) came in — dressed in black silk — all stood when she entered — (they'd just given me a hot glass of tea + there was no table nor so I had to bow + burn my hands at same time so I fear I wasn't very polite. Soon a serving girl brought in four lovely silver dishes much style of old cake stands on which were, black dates, raisins, water melon seeds + another kind of date. The daughter in law gave us each some — + we proceeded to talk — They are Shanghai folks so is Mrs. Ho — So much I didn't get — but some + much of conversation was in mandarin. I wasn't literally the bug under the microscope but might as well been — for all the questions + comments + discussions all about my family + what you all do, etc etc!! all in greatest politeness — its the way its done — They were lovely. Later we were taken upstairs where a table was set for four — little silver plates — silver chopsticks (and they are so slick!!!!) In center a plate of peanuts, one of pea sprouts, one of various vegetables — um so good — then came a big bowl of "chiaos" — this meat + vegetables wrapped in dough + steamed!! We

proceeded to eat + still like slow
was I! The boys came back + they
said I used chopsticks well!! The
lao tai tai ate a few + then smoked
several cigarettes - the men smoked
constantly — + then went over to a
bed + reclined to smoke something
- maybe some opium in it or not
sure - She had quite a tray of para-
phernalia of all sorts. After while they
said her stomach was bad + she had
to take this medicine. Smoking is like
eating to these upper class + non-
Christian Chinese women. — The older
son speaks English well so we talked
+ he practised on me + the others
talked around + about me.
Various subjects lead up + up +
I had a chance to witness in a
number of ways + all these sentences
I've been memorizing the Holy Spirit
brought to me! What was such a
joy!! The old mother is a Buddhist -
She says it is much like Christianity
- emphasis on morality + good works.
She is really interested as she is getting
old + her mother was baptized before
she died some years - It was just
wonderful to get this contact - The
entrance to these wealthy upper-
class homes isn't easy. They spoke
much of temporariness of this life
+ its fleeting joys. How I crave those
souls for God. The young men full
of life + the sweet old lady!

It was a great experience. Such courtesy + politeness!! Verily oh may the Master use His words! it will as He wills I am sure!

Then came home to find such a lovely surprise! Two Chinese friends had come in my absence + left a present of - chocolate bar, sardines + dried beef for me to take to the country + wish me a good journey. Now wasn't it sweet of them!! I was so pleased to think they'd thought of it!! It was dear -

After supper - I practised my speech on the boy + amah - + how they listened + seem really interested. It was such joy!!

I simply can't tell you the joy of being able to say these precious things to them + oh God is so good to let me come to speak for Him! I surely do praise Him with all my heart - but do pray for these souls!!

Well tomorrow - get off - pack - get a bath etc. Mrs. Eames is such a peach helping me with what to take + all!!

Nite-nite my loved ones - my prayer is your cup of joy in Him is also brimming full - He is so precious - I love you so much - love, Irene. (I haven't done [illegible] justice in [illegible] description!

1.

Report

Somewhere in China
April 7, 1928

My dear Loved Ones + Friends:

By the light of two candles — I must recount the day's experiences. Am all toasty + warm in my chinese clothes + the stockings which you mother found for me (after trying all the stores + found none warm enuf!) Have had supper — but me oh my! to recount a day should one begin at supper!! I went to Mrs. Gamts to pack up to come on my first country evangelistic trip. She has been perfectly wonderful to me — She says she's been helping folks off to the country for years, so she ought to know what to do + then she says she can only help, that is her mission work now. She surely helped me!! The cook bought my things for me + she let me bring "Lien Sau" — so we packed yesterday P.M. Then had a final bath — in tub — + in preparation — up early this a.m. — my luggage a big "koti" (the last word ~~in~~ a huge, but inexpensive basket covered with cloth on the principle of the old-time — now only a memory — telescopes which can expand indefinitely) this ~~bed~~ bed clothes + my change of clothes, needed books + picture post-cards, which just came from Mrs. Moshberger in the nick of time — Then we had a box of ~~canned~~ goods + groceries — a basket of vegetables, my guitar, my leather brief case — which some of the dear Woodburn friends gave me at a shower at Sarah's — + the noon lunch — + cook's bed roll!! Wore ~~my~~ warm coat [redacted] [redacted] Aunt Clara's scarf + mittens + the tweed hat I can roll up — I told the girls its principal good feature was that I could roll it up + make it disappear!! (I haven't improved in liking to wear a hat) — We got all piled in rickshas + off we went. We had no trouble

2, getting a seat on the train -, in third class car + tho' we were
the bud under the microscope again - the only
foreign woman on the car - men with cues, some
without cues, some coolies, some teachers, a
farmer or so, almost every conceivable trade
of folks - represented on the train - all looking,
I'm hardened to it! Really it amuses me
so! a bright little fellow came + sat with us -
+ I said something to the servant - He opened
his eyes + said "she talks Chinese" — well, he
had a good idea what I had on before long -
Before we got off - he read part of John's gospel
1 chap. to me + I expounded! It was fun -
a Chinese in seat ahead volunteered an explanation
in a hard part - He's a Christian teacher of English in a
boys school - so he practiced English on me!!
We got off after 2 hrs ride + here awaited a
Peking cart, a two wheeled one with no
springs, a little covered canopy just on the
axels - All the luggage stowed away - I
mounted, + the servants scrambled in + rode in front the man
who owned the horse, almost miniature, (he seemed so small) walked at side +
by a clever tap a whip — steered that
little animal most dexterously around
ruts - We followed a narrow road, sometimes
a track across fields of spring wheat —
Mrs. Hub. had fixed me such a nice lunch —
chicken prepared Chinese fashion cooked in
a nice sauce with eggs in it + bamboo sprouts -
I can tell you one must be dexterous to eat
with chopsticks on terra firma but in
a jolting jogging cart - - - - well - I got
my lunch anyway + acquired experiences
too!! It was such fun!!! I'd give anything
if you could have seen me !!

3. Sunday, Managed my washing & sleeping finely — I was warned to bring covers, I did but I assure you I was warmed by them!! I awake at ten just roasting Have a little room to myself — You see the place of meeting of this class of women who have come from various villages near & far to study for a month was formerly the school for girls which is now in Tsingtao so we have a good sized church, with a bell on it, several one-story buildings built around a court yard. This is a most interesting place. It is one of the first opened & has a well established church. with a Chinese pastor & a young evangelist who is perfectly splendid. There there is a christian school kept up & for & by the church members which also meets in this courtyard. I wish you could see & know some of these interesting folks. — I'll finish telling of how we live & then tell of the people. In my room for furniture are a folding cot, a table, two wooden stools, a chair and rather more safe as a wash stand than/chair. The floor is dirt packed down. Have a window & door — Real luxury. Really this is the most luxurious & most convenient of any of the places so it really isn't typical of most places I'll go later. It is really very convenient & I'm not suffering a speck but having a grand & glorious time. The cook prepares our food — twice a day we eat foreign food in a room off the school room & at noon Chinese food with the women who are studying here. Miss Chou a most precious wonderful Chinese Bible woman eats foreign food part of the time but can't be satisfied all of the time. Our foreign food is just like we have at home & Dien Zan knows what I like so we get along beautifully. He is having a grand time as he used to go to the country all the time & all this year he hasn't gone — so now he's just in his glory — boss & cook & all — Spriced us with a

4) beaming face + plate of doughnuts. I have eaten more pancakes out here as the bread is short + he was a bit worried over it because at Mrs. Eames the rule was pancakes on Sunday a.m. only - he couldn't quite understand the departure from the former but I assured him it was all right. Sometime someone must have taught him that spinach was especially good - or made a rule to have it each day - well, be as it may with absolutely unfailing regularity at supper we have a dish of spinach with hard boiled egg on top! It's amusing - but doubtless we are gaining in "mineral food". He really cooks well and it is a great help beside a necessity to have him.

Now I'll tell you a bit of the day's work + fun. This is a small Bible institute really - managed by the local Christians with the help of some of the missionary force in teaching. Women, old + young christian + non christian, some very old + with very tiny bound feet, others young brides - heathen girls married into Christian families who have come to study, others from homes entirely without any Christian belief, there is also a group of fine Christian girls graduated from middle school.

Some have come eighty li (a li is 1/3 of a mile) others 2 or 3 li, others live here in the village. Some walked to get here, others accompanied by some man of the household, rode little donkies, others came in barrows, a few had a short ride on the train or auto bus and then walked - They are divided into three groups those who can read and are Christian studied Matthew and Revelation beside singing and   Those who for first time are studying + learning to read have a simple catechism, + another book of simple truths, singing and a class in reading the phonetic. This is a system of symbols

5] which when learned a key to give sounds of the characters. Some books have them printed beside the character and others just use the phonetic script. It is very much more quickly learned & while it will never supplant the written character it is perfectly wonderful for these dear older women who have never learned the character & who could not now get them. This way they can in a comparatively short time learn to read the Bible and a few hymns. The third group is made up a group of children who came & formed into a class - so Miss Winslett who came first planned a schedule of primary work for them. There have been in attendance an average of 60 women for the month.

We have also a play period after classes - I wish you could see this too. These women whose lives have been so empty & deprived of children play had all to learn to play! At first they were unable to enter into it - and had to learn - but they surely have learned. Such fun as they had. One afternoon we had a great circle of old and young playing with the volley ball - and it was a joy to see their faces & the great enjoyment of it all! They love to play too after the ice is broken!

The very fine part of this class is that it is managed by Chinese and they love the responsibility. The teachers, beside Mr. Coonradt, & Miss Chow, who are employed by the mission, are volunteer workers. The plan was for mission to furnish the grain for the food of those who come from various places, they themselves to furnish their own bread & vegetables. This has all been done & at a surprisingly low cost.

6. "The local church raised a large part of the money for this helping fund. The institute has been run for a month - average attendance of 60 women at a total cost of $36.00 Mexican or about $15.00 American dollars. This is the money given by local church + mission and includes all the expense - apart from the vegetable + bread which has averaged $1.50 mex. per person. Imagine that many receiving this splendid instruction for a month at that rate. There have been an average of 25 living here from outside eating here. The local Christians have also sent in onions just now fine to eat, + other food to suppliment the food! We are so thankful for these groups who go ahead + take responsibility. They are the real fruits of the labor. They have felt the results so fine that they plan to go ahead + have classes another month. One month really isn't enuf for these women who have never studied at all to get enuf to go on so the next month of work will be great!

Later! This letter is written between times + I fear its "unity" and coherence are lacking but hope it will be intelligible.

The class is over + I'm having my first experience of being mud-bound - and a new sympathy for those who say they can't go in the rain. We planned to go ~~this morning~~ back Tsingtao - last night it rained all night + the several feet of fine dust have all become that much mud - so we wait - as they say - "There is another day". Most of the women have gone home to wash clothes + get ready to come back for next month.

We have had such a marvelous time just being friends. I can't do much at preaching or public speaking - tho I did lead the six o'clock morning prayer meeting one morning - my first attempt and in spite of all lack of much, I enjoyed it

and the Master truly helped me to speak + I praise Him for it! The teacher I had in Korea said the greatest essential in working among the Chinese is friendliness. I do believe it is the opening door. Such friends as have been made these ten days — There is nothing in the hearts of these people but open friendliness — The whole field is just ripe + waiting for the harvest. The seeds of communism haven't come yet here to foster a false hatred! As I said my opportunity has been not to preach but make friends + say what I could to each one! How cordial the local christians have been. The week before I came was spring festival + the foreigners who were here then, Mr. + Mrs. Walter + Miss Winslett had six feasts in five days. There have been presents of eggs twice, dishes of Chinese food, flowers + numberless expressions of friendship! Of course many come just in curiosity — but I'm accustomed to the many questions and love to have them come — if by letting them come to see even me may give a wee wedge for interest in my Master — I am content to tell over + over again — How old I am; what country, How many in my family, what each one does; — let them see my clothes + bed covers and comb + brush etc. It is all in good friendly interest + curiosity — + aren't we as curious tho perhaps not so bluntly so. My greatest "strangeness" to them was my white skin — All remarked — "how white her skin is". One dear old lady whose limit of world knowledge was a circle of a few lie around her home — decided if I'd go out in the sun I'd get yellow like them. Miss Chow told her there were five great races of different colors but she may still be thinking I will be yellow in time. One day a group of us were in a room talking after a class — one of the christians was seated by me, when in came an old lady from several

8] li away said she'd come to see the foreigner - She was just bursting with curiosity + from her seat near the door couldn't see enuf so this Christian in few gave her her seat + we are were so amused at her questions + the way she patted my hands + examined all my clothes - We preached some to her but she didn't want to listen just look! One day some of the younger women came to my room to visit - after classes there was always a crowd, one day it might be school girls, - another the children, another time some village women in to see, or maybe a group of the christians who came after classes. Miss Chow generally was there to help to talk to them. The guitar was almost worn out by the time I left - they surely did enjoy it + I did also. I feel it is truly a great help and I am so thankful for it. This day the younger women wanted to know how I comb my hair - I showed them the comb + brush + they wanted me to comb it for them. I did much to their enjoyment, then they wanted me to comb it like theirs - plain, straight back with a knot in the back - I did + they all so now I had become Chinese. They said tho I lacked the bangs + earrings - so one gave me her ear-rings + tied them with a thread over my ears - Soon all the courtyard group arrived to see and pass judgment. They said I must have a picture for your Mother to tell if you'd recognize me - that I'd turned Chinese. Then imagine! next am one of women brought a false bangs made of hair net - almost the color of my hair - which she had made the nite before for the picture!! Mrs. Hsun went back to her home to get her Chinese short coat + they had a real circus fixing me - Chinese + all the group attended at the picture taking. With great care they put me in the high straight back chair - put the potted

9] plants on each side of me + posed my hands just so — all according to the accepted form for a dignified Chinese picture — It all amused me so — but I was told not to smile — a sober dignified decorum was necessary. It was lovely! [The picture isn't quite a success as you see they didn't get the famous hair in + not the flowerpots! — The second they said I could smile but it also isn't good - too much grin - but does show the flower pots + clothes] All this was just fun + meaningless play - yes - but not meaningless for it was their genuine friendship + expression of real desire for me to be one of them - That to me is worth more than I can say!! How they appreciated my wearing Chinese clothes + black cloth chinese shoes, + the fact that I could eat Chinese food + did eat with them that's + could use chopsticks + they would laugh + say if I lived on Chinese soil, ate Chinese food my hair would become strait + black + you'd not recognize me!! Several dear old ladies asked about my mother — they came in one day as I was writing this + asked me to for them "wen ta hao" 問他好. Literally - "to ask you well" to greet you. One old lady had been a Christian just a little over a year. She said she had a dream + in it two girls in white led her to a very lovely bright place + she saw such a wonderful person. * He told it was heaven + she should believe in Jesus. All her family are unbelievers. She's just a dear! It was hard for me to talk with her as she'd use so much country language — something like our slang, but different words + they not good mandarin

10. She has great fun teasing me some of the expressions + I surprised my teacher with them when I returned.

This village is the home of Ding Lee Mei a very famous Chinese Minister + evangelist - about half of the village are related to him. There is one family I want to tell you of - a most interesting group. The old grandfather [his picture is the old man seated in the chair, I wish you'd seen them the evangelist + his grandson fixing him up for this picture - washing his face, borrowing a new hat, pulling sleeves down, arranging flower pots, taking his pipe + tobacco sack away + telling him to hold the Bible - it is most likely his only picture] was the leader of the Boxer rebellion in that area and a red hat boxer too. They burned the church + school but no lives were taken. The present church + buildings were built out of indemnity money collected from him + followers - He still is unconverted tho he does not really oppose Christianity + I was told he even admitted he was wrong. Well, you can imagine his feelings coming there to have his picture taken + what he must have been thinking (we got the picture thru his grandson asking him for us - as I thought you'd be interested in it) - Now the next stage in the story. When that big Robbery of the Blue express that happened at Lincheng in 1923 or about then was being settled - Mr. Romig of Tenghsien was interpreting for them. The telegraph operator a young man named Ding, the grandson of this old gentleman, was very interested in talking English, so he stayed near Mr. Romig

11. I practised his English talking with him a number of times. Mr. Romig said "Since your name is Iling I suppose you are a fine Christian." He said no; from that time he studied & was converted. He is a fine, tall, nice-looking young man. His father was then a traveling singer played Chinese stringed instrument & went from place to place with a concubine who sang with him. It is one of the lowest of trades — when the young Mr. Iling told me he said his father used "yen" - the term for tobacco but "ta yen" is opium — they often used just the one word yen & mean opium — a man of this class would most likely use opium. Well, the young Christian came home and how he prayed he said for his father — in a few months. His father was converted & Mr. Iling says nothing could induce him to touch the old instrument & he quit use of "yen" & he with son were baptised together. He now put the concubine away — tho he still provides for her living & she is in a Bible school but not living together. The father is now a guard on the railroad. The son now teaches the Christian school in this village. He surely is fine — sings very well & is surely giving those kiddies fine training. They were there for six o'clock prayer meeting every morning thru the month! They line & sing hymns before dismissal at 6 o'clock in evening & it was surely a joy to hear them.

The rest of this family are not yet Christians. One afternoon some women came to the church to see & one of them was Mr. Iling's mother. Miss Clow talked to her & she listened very interestedly & intelligently! She came in our rooms & we talked & sang & played guitar & of course she found out all about me & you all etc. The next day she sent word for us to come to her "poor home" which was really

121 a very nice, one-story rooms made of mud bricks built around a cleanly swept court yard. We went with a crowd following us — on the way passed a little old blind woman whom Miss Chow asked to come along + hear the gospel — "tao li" literally the "road of right" "principles" — that's poorly translated. We were met outside of the street gate by Mrs. Ding with true courtesy. The old toper grandfather standing outside bowed to us very politely — then we were ushered into the nice clean room of the teacher + his wife. Its walls were covered with nice gospel pictures + Chinese scrolls. We were invited to sit on the very dirty k'ang — which was spotless. This is a bed built of mud bricks with a fire box under it so it can be heated — on top was a nice clean straw matting. We went up + sat + a few others sat too — after a great deal of bowing + "no, I won't sit — you sit" — "I wouldn't think of sitting you sit" etc — well, after a certain time the proper ones sat. Then we wanted they were preparing tea — + after while the tea came + then followed the same bowing + "you drink" — "No, I won't drink" — "You please drink". after the proper amount of this the proper ones drank + we went then out to the courtyard where six nice seats were arranged — we sat — + then, after a great bowing + same discussion again the proper ones sat on the seats — others on the ground — about 25 in all — the little blind lady came — and Miss Chow talked to them + we sang. All listened attentively as Miss Chow explained God's love + the futility of worship of the temple idols. We feel they are very near the Kingdom — but are waiting for the old grandfather. It was all a most precious experience.

13) Then the second Sunday we had such an interesting experience. After church service Miss Clow + I went with Mrs. Sun to Ha tien a small village 3 li across the fields. It was warm and sun hot so we wore hats for protection — tho my foreign hat + Chinese clothes were a bit queer looking. We walked over + so were well ready for the real Chinese food they prepared for us. The village has two Christians living in it — other than this no witness — foreigners have never gone there to preach. they have boy's school but none for girls. Their only introduction to foreigners was in years back when German soldiers took Tsingtao + rode over the country treating the Chinese in no friendly way so since then they'll had great fear of foreign men. The Chinese evangelist from Ta Tsin Tan has been over there but of course women couldn't go out to hear him — so you can get a little idea of need for women's work in this field. There are 4000 such villages without any Christians at all in <u>them</u> and as conservative and out of reach of men workers. We were followed by crowds of naked little boys + girls — whose curiosity at first sight of a foreigner must be satisfied. They + grownups as well filled the room and courtyard of Mrs. Sun's home and would leave only when promised that after we had eaten we would come out + they could listen to the preaching. They came back again + again + peered thru the little window to see us eat — — How we these days of crowds following + coming to the room to see were reminded of the way Jesus was thronged by many who too just wanted to <u>see</u>. Miss Clow said as we ate + they waited — "often the Master had no time to eat even" — I can see in a new way why he went to the mountain — or far away from crowds for prayer. The crowds + demands we had on us of course were nothing in comparison with those ~~made~~ on Him. We finished our dinner + Miss Clow preached to the crowd + after all had a good look at me + remarked at my whiteness — they decided I wasn't

14] much of a show after all soon they settled down to listen to the message; we counted 150. How Mrs. Chow did preach to them - in their own country talk + how they listened. She surely is splendid. Several days later when Mrs. Sun went back to see her mother a great many came + asked her when we'd come again. These people who just had heard for first time - offered to provide us food so if we would come back, we could stay longer. One offered to give this kind of food, another that kind + they decided if we'd come they would have only grown-ups so that they need not be disturbed by children. Of course I was only an incident in it all. It's absolutely a new but ripe field! We had no chance to go back before I left but they asked me to come back to their class one week end. Next week was planned but I rather doubt the wisdom of my going out now, Mrs Chow can go back. Please pray for this work.

Well, eventually it cleared and rain stopped - the mud dried enuf for us to go. All the kitchen implements + food, bed rolls, + suitcases were piled on a cart and we were leaving. Such a precious two weeks of friendship made it hard to leave. All in the courtyard, including students walked part way and then went back. A group of four or five insisted on going half of 8 li with us to the train - and dear little old Mrs. Wang with her tiny wee bound feet but in spite of discomfort of walking on them she too went half way. My first country trip is over and a precious memory. I feel so grateful that the Master has given me this privilege of coming to China to have a wee share in work in this corner of the vineyard. I haven't told half of the loving + fine traits of these friends - + not near all of the interesting things but I must close now -
"Thanks be unto to God for His unspeakable gift" . . . . . and the joy of working with His Son.

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My dear Friends at Home:

All of you know the fun of looking forward to something for some time and then having the day arrive. That is the way I felt about having a Chinese feast. The eventful day came and has gone & I want to tell you about it. The members of the Presbyterian mission here invited the new arrivals to a Chinese restaurant for dinner. We [illegible] down over the mission compound first — [illegible] Boys school for 300 and girls school which is in an old Manchu official's home. The printing establishment and goat farm in connection furnish employment for [illegible] a number to work their way thru school. After seeing the hospital and nurses training school we went to the restaurant. We went thru the gate in the outer walls, all houses and many business places have walls & gate; then thru a courtyard or series of courtyards one finds the house. We were taken in to a room with three large round tables with square stools for chairs. There was no table cloth and at each place was a small plate, chop sticks, a spoon and long-tined fork. After we found our places the [illegible] began. This wasn't a great feast as they have at weddings which often have eighty different dishes but our twenty-eight seemed like feast enough. We began with watermelon seeds, a kind of spiced crab apple, little jellied cubes red fruit, and sort of pickled [illegible]. The thousand-year old eggs, which really aren't old at all but preserved in lime are extremely interesting. They have rather a transparent green color and are [illegible] slippery to be handled with chopsticks. One can eat them quite easily if you think of something else but eggs!! I can't fully describe all the dishes — there just aren't English words to do it — nor Chinese words yet in my vocabulary — We had lotus buds, shrimps, duck liver which we dipped in such a delicious lavender-tasting pepper, chicken velvet — this is the breast of chicken pounded [illegible] and then cooked — three different [illegible] vegetables, bamboo shoots and luscious candied yams. Now and then a little bowl full of hot water was brought in for us to wash off our chop sticks. They brought in a kind of brass table stove in which water was boiling. We put in some long gelatine [illegible] [illegible] pork and beef and vegetables and cooked it on the table. The steaming [illegible] made it seem

quite cozy. Chicken cooked with chestnuts, rice, soups and spud with a cup of tea ended the meal. I am sure you'd have been amazed at my perfectly good Chinese Etiquette — shells of nuts, bones, waste food goes on the table. The dishes are put in the center and each one is supposed to reach and as deftly as you can with slippery chopsticks get what you wish from the bowl. We could use a spoon for a few things but most liquid food is just drunk from the bowl. My Chinese teacher told me last week she couldn't eat foreign food there were so many implements to use and she wouldn't know which to use — We ate a little bit of all the food - some I'll admit I enjoyed more than others but it was such fun!! I'll gladly go again. Once a week here we have Chinese food somewhat similar and I thoroughly enjoy it.

In the morning we went to the Summer Palace - an hour's ride out of Peking. It was perfectly fascinating. I hesitate to attempt a description for even the best anyone could do is wholly inadequate. There is a large lake at the foot of a high hill - along the lake + to the top of the hill are a succession of palaces, temples, pagodas with their artistic tiled roofs gleaming in the sun. The grounds are laid out with all the art the Chinese landscape gardener has at his command. The audience hall one sees first - then following the lake the private dwelling of the Empress + her ladies. We saw there plate glass windows, Imperial bed room, chairs, carved wood partitions and rich brocades. None live there since the Republic and dust is about an inch thick on all of the lovely things. We went thru a number of palaces, climbed higher to Temple of Ten Thousand Buddhas" - a famous pagoda all in bronze, said to have been built by the Jesuits. The stair ways and balustrade all had beautifully colored tiles which add to the colorful picture. Near the top a rocky stone grotto which has a number of winding paths in it, of which lead up to the next palace. The famous "Camel Back" bridge with its single arch 30 feet high to allow the old Imperial barges to pass under without lowering a sail. A theatre for private performances with three-story stage, built open on three sides so the scene could be viewed from three sides. Players representing angels or spirits played on the upper stories. There is a large hall in front in which Empress sat on a gorgeous carved wood throne. There are boxes where nobles sat in Turkish fashion on the floor as none were allowed to be seated on chairs in presence of the Empress. A corridor walls with pictures of the surrounding scenery decorated the [illegible] in the [illegible] follows the marble terrace behind follows the western side of the lake. Pavilions at intervals and many of beautiful tales add to the beauty of it all.

The whole landscape and the vastness of its grounds and proportions made one realize a little bit just what the oriental splendor of the monarch was. We were there several hours. It was so fascinating just to roam over the many winding paths and continually find some new little tea pagoda or temple. The Empress who built it had ruled China for 25 years then decided to build this palace. The near empty treasury didn't daunt her but she used fifty millions destined for the navy to construct her pleasure palace.

Language work is the most absorbing interest just now. We are deep into character analysis, tones, and all that goes with learning a new language. I enjoy it more than I can tell. We have such fun practicing in the little shops. Often a shop keeper practices his English on us while we practice Chinese on him. Anyway we are glad to be a source of amusement, if nothing else!

This afternoon we heard a Chinese pastor. He spoke perfect English and used it with such beauty and eloquence. But more the wonderful spirit of worship & his message were wonderful! It never ceases to stir me with praise and thanksgiving when I compare one like him with many many we see on the streets. We have ample proof that the image of God in man has been marred and sadly so, tho often no more so than at home, but to realize that by His Spirit it is being restored is a marvelous thing. It shows the possibilities ahead. We've been hearing much here of troubles of China — politics, anti-foreign sentiment but it is only as we hear of it — we've had no experience of it yet. But we feel more and more that China needs not civilization and education as such, but only as we can represent and bring them Christ are we at all justified in being here. Do pray for China and for us that Christ always may be first! There is oh such a need for Christ and His love. God bless all of you — [illegible]